



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Senator Chris Kapenga – (608) 266-9174

Representative Rob Hutton – (608) 267-9836

State Senate Passes Budgetary Accountability for State Expenditures (BASE) Act

Measure would improve accountability and transparency in state budgeting

Madison, WI – On Tuesday, the state Senate passed the Budgetary Accountability for State Expenditures (BASE) Act on a 19-14 vote. Senate Bill 407 would require state agencies to include in their biennial budget requests plans to reduce their spending by 5 percent and maintain current spending levels for all state operations, with a few exceptions.

“Since 1991, the Wisconsin state budget has nearly tripled from \$26.6 billion to \$73 billion for the 2015-2017 budget. Not only has our overall budget grown over that period of time, but it has done so at over three times the rate of inflation,” said Senator Kapenga (R-Delafield).

“We have taken great strides over the past five years to improve fiscal accountability by implementing a comprehensive financial software solution, reducing bonding, and improving our GAAP deficit,” continued Kapenga. “However, in order to properly right-size government, better tools are needed to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of each dollar spent. The BASE Act is a first step towards achieving that goal.”

“I applaud the Senate for passing this important piece of legislation today” said Rep. Hutton (R-Brookfield). “Passage of this bill will promote transparency within our state agencies and provide oversight in addressing the trajectory of our state spending. It’s critical we evaluate subsequent biennium budgets in context with our long-term budget and fiscal objectives.”

Senate Bill 407 is scheduled for a vote before the full Assembly this Thursday.

###